

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on May 30, 2008.
2. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11 and 14-25 are pending in this action. Claims 1, 7, 10, 16 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 9, 12 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 17-25 have been newly added.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Pavel I. Pogodin (Reg. No. 48,205) on June 12, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Currently amended) A computer [Computer] readable storage medium embodying a set of instructions, the set of instructions, when executed by one or more processors, causing the one or more processors perform a method for determining [comprising: computer readable program code embodied on the computer readable storage medium, the computer readable program code usable to program a computer to determine] interactions, the method comprising:

determining speech information;

determining discourse functions and prosodic features in the speech information;

determining a predictive interaction model, the predictive interaction model being developed by associating discourse functions of a training corpus of turn annotated speech and prosodic features of the turn annotated speech with turn information of the turn annotated speech; and

determining an interaction turn based on the predictive interaction model and the determined discourse functions and prosodic features,

wherein the predictive interaction model accepts the prosodic features of the speech information as one input and a current discourse functions of the speech information as another input and determines a likelihood that a next discourse function is associated with the interaction turn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11 and 14-25 are allowed over the prior art of record.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As per independent claims the applicant teaches, a method/system of determining a predictive interactions. The applicant arguments submitted on April 22, 2008 are deemed to be persuasive to the examiner. The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the claims combinations of features. The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest in combination with other limitations, particularly, determines a likelihood that a next discourse function in associated with the interaction turn, wherein the predictive interaction model accepts the prosodic features of the speech information as one input and a current discourse function of the speech as another input.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Patrick Edouard**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7603**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 19, 2008

/Abul K. Azad/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626